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# THE MORNING NEWS

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## Capriles says Venezuela lying about Chavez health

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuelan opposition leader Henrique Capriles on Thursday again accused the government of lying about the health of cancer-stricken President Hugo Chavez, who is convalescing in Cuba.

"Most probably, they have lied to us about the condition of the president of the republic during the past two months," Capriles told a press conference.

He said authorities in Caracas had already "lied" to the people by saying the national currency would not be devalued -- only to announce the devaluation of the bolivar by more than 30 percent, which went into effect Wednesday.

"If a person can sign documents, then why can't that person speak to the nation? Therefore, they are lying -- the president is not really speaking or signing anything," Capriles said.

Chavez, 58, has not been

seen or heard from since his last cancer operation on December 11 in Havana.

Vice President Nicolas Maduro said Wednesday that the firebrand leftist leader was undergoing "extremely tough and complex" treatment in the Cuban capital.

Declining to provide details about the course of treatment, Maduro insisted that Chavez was facing his medical travails with a "fighting spirit."

Capriles, who lost to Chavez in October's presidential election, however said the president could be in a condition that is "totally different" from what government ministers have described.

The governor of Miranda state refused to say whether he would again run for the presidency should a special election be called if Chavez -- who has been in power since 1999 -- is unable to carry on.

## Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar announces a stellar line up for International Women's Day



Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar

particularly those still trapped in patriarchal societies, to be encouraged to realize they need not be powerless or consider themselves as chattel.

The administration of Aruba's Minister of Social and Economic Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, has particularly taken advantage of this day to provide a free, all-day program of noted women speakers, providing inspiration for Aruban women from all walks of life.

This year, a particularly exciting program is scheduled for March 8, beginning at 9:00 AM in the Renaissance Convention Center in Oranjestad. The Minister will welcome noted speakers HRH Princess Laurentien of Holland, Dr. Sue Morter, noted actress and humanitarian Maria Bello, and Artist Elizabeth Core.

A highlight of the day will be the international World Premiere of the documentary "Femme: Women Healing the World" by noted filmmaker Emmanuel Itier, with Sharon Stone Executive Producer.

Continued on pg 3



HRH Princess Laurentien



Actress/Humanitarian Maria Bello



Dr. Sue Morter

March 8, International Women's Day, originally called International Working Women's Day, is a day dedicated to the empowerment of women often accompanied by seminars and workshops to aid them in understanding and realizing their full potential.

Though originally begun as a Socialist movement, it has become an opportunity for women around the world,





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## Aruba Tourism Authority puts spotlight on *Monique Zaandam*

Since September 2012, the Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) has a special program in place which focuses on particular individuals working in different areas in our community which has particular relevance and importance to our tourism. Each of these individuals are chosen because of the way they reflect their particular commitment to promoting our tourism.

The focus in today's article is on Monique Zaandam, winner of the 2012 Schoco Award. Monique is the Assistant Director of Human Resources at the Westin Resort. She won the prize for "Excellence for Manager of the Year 2012."

Monique has a long and ample history in the world of tourism. She has been working in this industry for the past 20 years, beginning at the Westin in the Guest Activities department. Five years later she followed a special training program after which she joined the Human Resources department where she is currently still active.

Monique is known for her calm spirit and patience and is well liked by the Westin employees. She enjoys her work, which is very varied and far from routine. "Much of my time goes to planning, structuring and training employees," she reports. Some of the training involves giving language classes, computer classes or whatever the employee needs for their development. Monique is also very involved with supervising



ing and coordinating interns who come to train at the hotel.

Monique indicated that she especially enjoys seeing employees progress and move on to better positions. She also enjoys seeing the interns learn and gain more confidence and then assume more responsibility.

Monique shared something of her experience with the guests. She recounted how she felt so pleased when the guest would ask for her at the front desk. She said, "I let them know that I really care and that they are valuable. Monique said...."One of the lessons I learned working in the tourism industry, is that you learn something new every day. We exchange experiences and interchange ideas."

With respect to her experience with the Shoco Awards, she said that in the HR department they compile the information to send to

AHATA. It is her job to fill out the nomination forms, but that one time she was one of the nominees. This was very special for her because, as she said, she was always promoting employees, but this time it was she who was passing through the process for nomination.

She said, "I did not expect to win because there were others whom I considered to be much more worthy in the category, so I was very surprised. It became something unforgettable. I was even more emotional the

next day, when the entire Westin family came to congratulate me. I saw this as another achievement for the hotel, as it was the second Schoco Award for the Westin."

Monique Zaandam's commitment to Aruba is... "in those small details that we can do, we maintain Aruba's cordiality. That same cordiality is there for my colleagues as well as for the visitors. My desire is for everyone to feel Aruba's amiability. I believe that we can all demonstrate our commitment in this way for Aruba."

"My focus is on helping the Westin employees and our students from the schools in their development of the service to our tourists, as well as for the community. We bring back our visitors to Aruba with our consistent great service at the most optimal level," according to Monique Zaandam.

**In the category under 4 million  
passengers in the Americas:  
Aruba Airport wins 1st  
price for excellence in  
Airline Marketing!**



Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) is very proud to announce its most recent award: Winner Routes Airport Marketing Award 2013 in the category under 4 million passengers in the Americas! AAA was short listed earlier together with Lynden

Pindling International Airport (Nassau) who received the Highly Commended Award, Alejandro Velasco Astete International Airport (Cuzco), Hewanorra International Airport (St Lucia) and Owen Roberts International Airport (Grand Cayman).

Continued on pg 5

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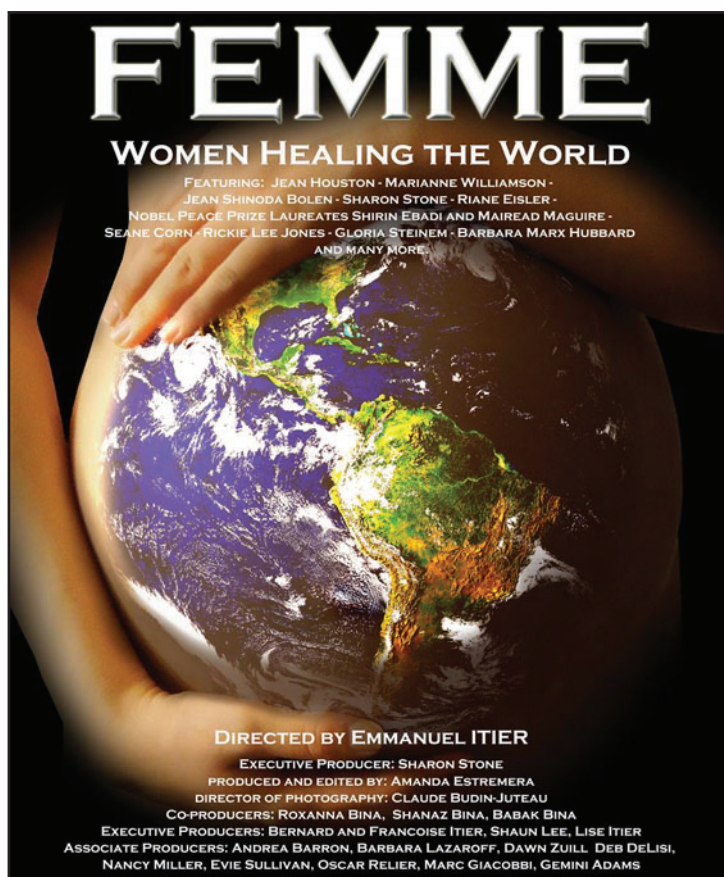
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## Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar announces a stellar line up for International Women's Day

Continued from pg 1



**Director Emmanuel Itier and Executive Producer Sharon Stone**

Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar was one of the many illustrious women interviewed for this 90-minute homage to the power and intelligence of the "fairer sex." It posits that in a world on the brink of Armageddon, the natural nurturing influence of women in power is possibly what is needed to save it. The film's director, Emmanuel Itier, will be present for the screening.

The conference speakers will address the various issues of women in the workplace, women's health, creativity, and issues of poverty and oppression. Maria Bello is the founder of the organization "We Advance," dedicated to establishing a grassroots movement empowering Haitian women to collaborate toward making healthcare a priority. The also focus on ending ender-based Violence (GVB) within their communities.

The Women's Day Conference has had increasing response in the past two years. They can only accept a limit of 600 registrants, and encourage all those wishing to attend to register early, beginning on Monday, February 18. This can be done on the conference's website: <http://www.womensday.aw>.

By Rosalie Klein

## Snubbed 'Argo' director Affleck to present at Oscars

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Ben Affleck will join the presenting cast for next week's Oscars, organizers said Thursday, despite the perceived snub that saw him miss the best director nominees' shortlist.

Affleck's Iran hostage cri-

sis drama "Argo" is nominated for best picture Oscar - and could cause an upset for veteran Steven Spielberg's "Lincoln," after sweeping up top prizes during Hollywood's awards season so far.

But the actor-filmmaker was seen as having been

snubbed when he failed to make the director nominees' list, announced in January.

Nevertheless, being asked to present at the Academy Awards is hardly an invitation to refuse, especially with a film in the running for the top prize at the 85th Academy Awards, on February 24.

## ATENCION

**CAP Compania Arubano di Petroleo N.V. ta informa publico en general cu e compania REPSOL lo haci un investigacion di exploracion sismico den lama rond di Aruba.**

- E exploracion sismico aki ta tuma luga den cumplimiento di un contract entre REPSOL y CAP a base di articulo 3 y 4 di e "Petroleumverordening zeegebied Aruba".
- E investigacion sismico lo cuminsa dia 15 di februari 2013 y lo dura mas of menos 40 dia.
- E barco sismico SR/V VANTAGE lo rastra un kabel cu un largura di 6 kilometer pa 9 kilometer y un diameter di 6 centimeter na un profundidad di 8 meter pa 10 meter bao di awa.
- Dos otro barco di apoyo OMS RESOLUTION y ELIZABETH-C lo duna sosten logistico na e operacionnan di e investigacion y lo mantene comunicacion cu barconan den e area.
- Tur actividad lo ta na un distancia di mas di 3 kilometer for di costa.
- CAP N.V. ta haci un peticion na tur doño di barco pa coopera pa e investigacion por tuma luga na un forma sigur y adecuado.

**CAP Compania Arubano di Petroleo N.V. brings to the attention of the public in general that the company REPSOL will be conducting a seismic exploration survey offshore Aruba.**

- This seismic survey is conducted in fulfillment of a contract between REPSOL and CAP in accordance with articles 3 and 4 of the Petroleum Ordinance offshore Aruba.
- The seismic survey will start the 15th of February 2013 and will have a duration of 40 days approximately.
- The seismic vessel SR/V VANTAGE will tow a submarine cable of 6 - 9 kilometers with a diameter of 6 centimeter at a depth of 8 - 10 meters below sealevel.
- Two support vessels OMS RESOLUTION and ELIZABETH-C will give logistical assistance to the operations during the seismic survey and will maintain communications with other ships in the area.
- All seismic acquisition will be conducted at a distance of more than 3 kilometer from the coast.
- CAP N.V. requests the co-operation of boat owners in order to ensure that the survey is conducted in a safe and proper manner.

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## Surprise Valentine for newly engaged couple *Andrea and Nelson* at Marriott



Andrea and Nelson



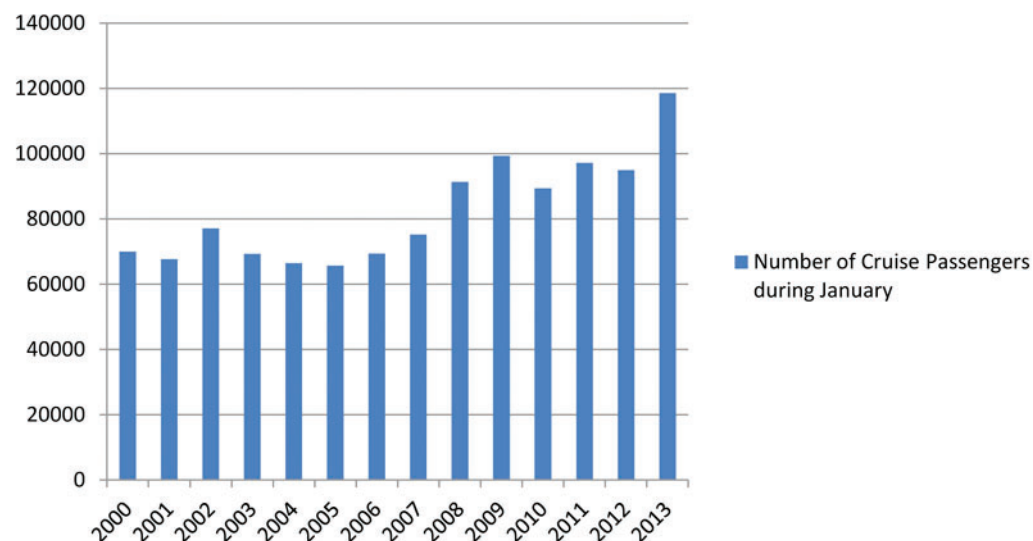
Newly engaged couple together with Sales Coordinator Abigail

On February 14, 2013 the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino Sales department surprised newly engaged couple Andrea Maldonado and Nelson Garcia with a special Valentine's Day pre wedding arrangement. The couple visited the island of Aruba and the Marriott Resort to plan their destination wedding.

With Valentine's Day in mind, Sales Coordinator Abigail van der Linden chose to setup a small taste panel in La Vista restaurant as a surprise for the lovebirds. The couple and family tried over ten delicious hors d'oeuvres to choose from for their future wedding and discussed the wedding package options and location. The Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris looks forward to welcome the happy couple back to plan their wedding.

## Cruise tourism results for Aruba are excellent

Number of Cruise Passengers during January



During the past month of January we may have noticed the large number of cruise visitors from all over the world visiting our island.

For the month of January 2013 we broke a record for the cruise industry. This is the very first time that during the last 13 years (2000-2012) that we surpassed the 100 thousand number of passengers for the month of January.

With a total of 62 calls from cruise ships who entered our wharf, 118,542 visitors visited our island. Compared to January 2012 this amounts to an increase of 24.8%. An additional 47,483 crew members came with the cruise ships (an increase of 26% compared to the same month last year). This brings the total number of cruise visitors to 166,025. An increase of 25.3%.

Of the 62 cruise ships, 5 of them together brought a total of approximately 13 thousand passengers to visit our island. These ships were the Carnival Freedom - Oceana - Aida Luna - The World and Zuiderdam.

We saw some of the cruise lines that love to visit Aruba.

Among them were the Princess Cruises with 5 different ships. Holland America Line also brought 5 different ships. Also Royal Caribbean Cruise Line paid us a visit with Grandeur of the Seas and Adventure of the Seas. The Carnival Cruise Line arrived here with Carnival Freedom and Carnival Victory.

The goal for this year is to increase Aruba's cruise industry by 20% compared to last

year 2012 with respect to calls to our wharf. For the high season they are projecting a 3.82% increase. During the low season they are projecting an increase of 189%. These projections are based on the actual reservations that these ships have with the wharf of Aruba for 2013.

The following graph shows how cruise tourism fared in the month of January since the year 2000.



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## Aruba Airport wins 1st price for excellence in Airline Marketing!

Continued from pg 2

The award adds on to "Highly Commended" and runner-up status for the World Routes Awards received in Abu Dhabi in 2012. This is the second time that AAA resulted as the winner of this prestigious award, as in 2010 AAA also received the award for Excellence in Airline Marketing at Routes' Americas Conference in Lima, Peru in the category Central America and Caribbean.

The annual Routes awards are highly regarded as the most valuable awards in the industry as they are voted for and judged by the airline network planning community.

They provide the airline

community with the chance to have their say as to which airport they think provides the best overall marketing services to them whether it be about their particular relationship, effective results, provision of data and information or innovative techniques to establish new or maintain and develop existing routes.

"We don't want to sound arrogant, but we were very confident about our airline marketing efforts in the last year and had a feeling that this year was going to be ours! It is a fantastic success for our marketing team and it shows the airlines' appreciation for our consistent proactive approach towards our main industry partners. The nominations and awards are an important benchmark for us to monitor how we are doing compared to the competition, since all airports go full swing nowadays to charm the airline industry. This award is a great way for us to have a credible recognition which we can proudly talk about to our customers and other stakeholders," said Peter Steinmetz, CEO of AAA.

In the picture Head of Airline Marketing Jo-Anne Arends together with the Business Unit Manager Terminal Barbara Brown proudly display the award received in Cartagena, Colombia last Monday.

## The Windmill lacks wind with common sense

By: Roland W. Peterson



Last year in May (2012) I wrote an article "Contra wind for the windmill"

This is just for the record I will say

Today I read a very interesting article in the local press about the windmill written by Dr. John Croes

I go along with Dr. Croes completely

It is now time that we put aside the "absence of common sense"

and come with the windmills at Urirama. I still do not understand, if the windmills are not good for Urirama

how come they are good for Vader Piet

But do not worry, dump everything that is no good In San Nicolas

There is no windmill in the Main street

Maybe they should put one there too

The Government has said all ready that more windmills at Vader Piet is not feasible

Suddenly now there is room for two more

I am quoting the Media/Press

If it is not so, it is not me, the "layman" who said it.



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## "Exercise is Medicine" to be introduced to all general care practitioners



Dr. Joaquin van Trigt

The government of Aruba is working on introducing various methods and ways to keep everyone healthy and to help those with chronic ill-

ness not to develop complications.

One essential element in this process is to introduce "preventative treatment." This type of treatment has been proven effective all over the world, and is known as "Exercise is Medicine."

This includes non-medical prescriptions, but a specific plan which is combined with movement and nutrition which will result in a healthier life style. In cases where a person already has a chronic illness, the doctor, specialist and paramedic will prescribe a combination of treatment. This will include medicine, such as pills, with an individual program for the patient which includes the "Exercise is Medicine" pro-

gram.

It has been proven that treatment with chemical medication is not as effective as when combined with a program of physical activity and a balanced nutrition. Primary Care Physician, Dr. Joaquin van Trigt is very enthusiastic about the introduction of this new concept to Aruba. This he is doing together with colleagues such as Cardiologist Johnny Cheng, Orthopedist Patrick Haime and Koos Veel. These professionals have already been applying the program.

"Exercise is Medicine" is a protocol that these innovative doctors believe in. Dr Van Trigt, as one with a sports background, combined with his medical profession, sees many patients with different complications. Hence, Van Trigt stands behind this protocol wholeheartedly.

Van Trigt is convinced that "Exercise is Medicine" is a sure practice for future Primary Care doctors. It is an important application for Diabetics, people with hypertension, or those who are obese. He says..."every patient is an individual, and different so that a specific plan must be designed for each patient's situation and personal condition."

Van Trigt says that he is prepared and ready to work pro-actively and effectively with his existing patients. For those new patients who have no complications or medical history, will be guided to avoid chronic diseases with his plan: "op maat" of exercises and nutrition.

He says, it is time to open our eyes and see and embrace new developments!



## US senators delay Hagel confirmation



**Chuck Hagel**

Republican senators have delayed a vote to confirm President Obama's nominee for US secretary of defense.

They say questions remain about Senator Chuck Hagel but have agreed to an up-or-down vote on 26 February.

Mr Hagel's backers say the US military needs a leader in place while troops remain in Afghanistan and North Korea has just tested a nuclear device.

Mr Hagel, a former Republican Senator, would replace Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta if approved by the full Senate.

He was approved by the Senate armed services com-

mittee in a 14-11 vote along party lines on Tuesday.

'Never, ever'

Speaking on the floor of the Senate, Majority Leader Harry Reid said Republicans had made an "unfortunate choice to ratchet up the level of obstruction" by delaying the vote on Mr Hagel's confirmation.

"There are times like this when it's nice to have a secretary of defense," he said, citing Iran's nuclear programme, the ongoing war in Afghanistan, an upcoming Nato summit, the conflict in Syria, and other security matters.

Calling the former Nebraska Republican senator a "man of quality" and courage, Sen Reid said nothing would happen in the coming days to change Mr Hagel's qualifications for the job and added he would telephone the nominee to apologise for the turn of events.

Earlier, Arizona Senator

John McCain and South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham argued that more time was needed to answer outstanding questions about Mr Hagel.

They said they would be prepared to vote on the nomination when the Senate returned from a 10-day recess.

The Republicans have forced the delay with a parliamentary manoeuvre blocking the Senate majority leader's motion to end debate on Mr Hagel's nomination and proceed to an up-or-down vote on confirmation.

Even though the Democrats hold a majority of 55 votes, Senate rules in this case require them to come up with 60 to end debate and hold the final confirmation vote.

'Renegade'

One of Mr Hagel's leading critics in the Senate, Sen Graham, had vowed to block Mr Hagel's confirmation until he received more information from the White House about the 11 September attack on the US consulate in Benghazi, Libya.

## Senators propose first US carbon tax

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US senators proposed a tax on carbon emissions Thursday amid growing calls for action on climate change, but the bill is expected to face staunch opposition from many conservatives.

Two days after President Barack Obama urged Congress to tackle the emissions blamed for rising temperatures, two senators laid out a plan that would for the first time set a price on carbon throughout the United States.

The plan by staunch environmentalists Barbara Boxer and Bernie Sanders would

charge \$20 per ton of carbon from major polluters such as coal mines and oil refineries, rising 5.6 percent annually over 10 years.

"We are looking at the danger of a planetary crisis," said Sanders, an independent from Vermont who generally votes with Obama's Democratic Party.

"When scientists tell us that the temperature of this Earth may go up at least eight degrees Fahrenheit (4.4 Celsius) by the end of this century, that means cataclysmic changes to the planet. We have to act," he told re-

porters.

In hopes of shielding consumers from higher costs, 60 percent of the generated revenue would be sent back in a monthly rebate to every US resident. Much of the rest would go to improve energy efficiency at homes and promote renewable energy such as wind and solar in a bid to create jobs.

The senators, citing the Congressional Budget Office, said that the carbon fee would generate \$1.2 trillion over 10 years. They said that around \$300 billion would be devoted to bringing down the ballooning US debt.



**PERU, Lima :** Couples get married inside a public pool during a mass wedding on Valentine's Day in Lima on February 14, 2013. Over 200 couples participated in a community civil marriage organized by the municipality of Comas, northeast of Lima. (AFP PHOTO)

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## 3G Capital's meal now served with ketchup and fries



InBev -- which the three together control with a combined 82 percent stake.

As 3G Capital, meanwhile, they made their mark in the United States in September 2010 with the \$4 billion takeover of struggling Burger King.

With Thursday's joint bid for Heinz, they are acquiring the maker of the country's most popular burger condiment.

And they will also get fries with that: Heinz owns Ore-Ida, a giant maker of frozen potatoes and french fries.

Heinz chief executive William Johnson recalled his first meeting with 3G.

"Actually, I thought they were coming to have dinner with me because they own Burger King and they were a customer and they were unhappy. It turns out, they were a happy customer," he said.

Even so, 3G and its principals have set their sights on even broader horizons. AB-InBev is also pursuing the takeover of Mexican brewer Modelo, which makes Corona.

The move has been challenged by US antitrust authorities, who say AB-InBev is already over-powerful in the market.

Whether they get Modelo or not, the 3G team still have a round meal in their hands - if not exactly a health foodie's dream.

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Brazilian-backed investment fund 3G Capital, which joined Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway in the \$28 billion deal to take over ketchup-maker Heinz, started out with beer.

Now it has a full course fast food meal in hand: beer, burgers, fries and ketchup.

The company was started by Brazilian tycoon Jorge Paulo Lemann, 73, who built his wealth, put at \$12 billion by Forbes -- in the brewing industry.

With partners Carlos Sicupira and Marcel Telles, Lemann merged Brazilian beermaker Ambev with Belgium's Interbrew, establishing the world's largest brewer InBev.

The company only became larger with the takeover of the US maker of Budweiser, Anheuser-Busch, in 2008. The tieup created AB-

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## International News

### New Syria peace plan circulated in UN: Saudi daily

BEIRUT (AFP) - A new peace plan for Syria, involving the creation of a senate to oversee a power transition, is currently making the rounds in the United Nations, Saudi newspaper Asharq Alawsat reported.

The daily reported that it had obtained a copy of the plan aimed at ending Syria's 23-month conflict, saying that it had been drafted "under UN supervision".

Members of the Syria-based opposition that is tolerated by the regime of President Bashar al-Assad took part in the drafting of the plan, the paper added.

The draft does not elaborate on Assad's fate, though the West and opposition groups calling for his fall have said any talks should lead to his departure.

The plan foresees the creation of a 140-member senate body tasked with leading the dialogue process between the regime and the opposition during a transitional phase, said Asharq al-Awsat.

"This senate will be the core of (Syria's) Second Re-

public," said the London-based newspaper.

While 102 senate members would be elected "under the UN's strict supervision, the remaining 38 would be appointed by the regime, the opposition and religious institutions.

The plan also says Faruq al-Sharaa, Syria's vice president, should head the senate.

Within a month of the enactment of this plan "there would be an immediate ceasefire and (loyalist) troops would start withdrawing from the cities", said the daily.

After the establishment of a proposed senate, a committee would be set up to prepare for elections under UN supervision, Asharq Alawsat added.

Syria's armed uprising flared after Assad's forces launched a bloody crackdown on peaceful democracy protests that erupted in March 2011, inspired by the Arab Spring uprisings.

The UN says nearly 70,000 people have been killed.

### Australia spy case mystery grips Israel

ERUSALEM (AFP) - Speculation over the top-secret arrest and suicide of an Australian-Israeli in prison reached fever pitch Thursday amid allegations he may have been about to blow the whistle on sensitive Mossad operations.

The mystery surrounding the so-called Prisoner X, identified this week by Australian media as Mossad agent Ben Zygier, has dominated headlines in Israel and Australia despite a media blackout on publishing details about his arrest.

Zygier is believed to have died in December 2010 while in isolation at Ayalon prison in Ramle near Tel Aviv, in a case which Israel went to extreme lengths to cover up.

Late on Wednesday, Israel admitted it had imprisoned a man with dual nationality on security grounds who had committed suicide in jail in 2010, but did not identify him, nor did it confirm reports he worked for its spy agency, Mossad.

But an Israeli lawyer who met Zygier just days before his death confirmed that Mossad agents had been involved in

the case, and said he saw no indication the prisoner was planning to kill himself.

According to the Sydney Morning Herald, Australian intelligence officials believe that Zygier may have been about to reveal information about sensitive Mossad operations, including the use of falsified Australian passports, to either Canberra or to the media when he was arrested.

The report quoted Foreign Minister Bob Carr as saying Canberra had first learned of Zygier's arrest "through intelligence channels" on February 24, 2010.

Just a week earlier, Dubai police had publicly accused Mossad agents of carrying out a January hit on a top Hamas militant, saying they were looking for around a dozen people with Western passports -- four of them Australian.

The move sparked a crisis between Israel and several Western governments, including Canberra, with the resultant freeze meaning "Zygier's case wasn't pursued further" by Australian intelligence or the foreign ministry, it said.

Shortly afterwards, it

emerged that Australia's overseas intelligence agency had been investigating Zygier on suspicion of using his passport to spy for Israel, the paper said, indicating he was one of at least three dual Australian-Israelis being probed.

Leading human rights lawyer Avigdor Feldman confirmed to AFP on Thursday he had met the mystery prisoner just days before he was found hanged in his cell which was equipped with state-of-the-art surveillance gear.

"I found a person who was indeed worried under the circumstances, but certainly not a person emotionally devastated or depressed, as far as I could judge with my layman understanding."

Feldman also called Zygier's confinement to an electronically monitored solitary cell "an exaggeration -- unnecessary and wrong."

In a separate interview with Kol BaRama radio station, Feldman confirmed Mossad involvement, saying: "The contact man from the Mossad, with whom I was in touch, informed me that unfortunately my client was no longer alive."

### Son beheads father in Australia

SYDNEY (AFP) - A man was charged with murder after allegedly decapitating his father in Australia on Thursday, with reports saying he was killed as he attempted to intervene in a fight between his son and wife.

Toufic Zahab, 69, died after he was reportedly attacked with a brick and a knife inside his home in a western Sydney suburb.

Police confirmed the man's head was cut off and his wife was being treated for shock after the attack allegedly carried out by their son Khoder, 42.

"A man has been charged with murder following the death of a man at Bankstown this morning," police said in a statement.

"Police were called to the home... shortly after 6:00 am today, responding to reports of a domestic violence incident."

Khoder was arrested at the

home after a short struggle and was later charged with his father's murder as well as common assault and assaulting police.

"The scene itself is quite disturbing. It's been a difficult morning for both the family and the police, and ambulance (staff) are currently looking after their welfare," acting Bankstown superintendent Glen Fitzgerald said.

Relatives gathered outside

the house told media that the son pushed his mother down the stairs and then attacked his father when he tried to intervene.

Zahab's grandson Abdul, told the Sydney Morning Herald: "Everyone's devastated and shocked."

"He was a wonderful man, a beautiful man, well known in the community. This is the most unexpected thing that could occur."



LA PAZ (AFP) : Bolivian President Evo Morales speaks during a ceremony commemorating the 134th anniversary of the invasion by Chilean troops to the then Bolivian port of Antofagasta that triggered the Pacific War, in La Paz, on February 14, 2013. The 1879 Pacific War confronted Chile with Peru and Bolivia. Defeated, Bolivia lost 120,000 sq km of its territory and its 400 km of Pacific coast.



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## Health & Living

### Costa Rica to compensate couples for in vitro ban

SAN JOSE (AFP) - The government of Costa Rica will pay \$360,000 in compensation to 18 couples impacted by the country's ban on in vitro fertilization, officials said.

The payment, in compliance with a ruling by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, will be made on February 25, said Communications Minister Francisco Chacon.

Each couple will receive about \$20,000, while \$60,000 will be made available for lawyer fees, he said.

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights condemned in December Costa Rica's ban on in vitro fertilization, which was declared unconstitutional by the country's Supreme Court in 2000.

In its ruling, the court said the ban affected the rights to private and family life, reproductive rights and the personal integrity of those affected.

The judges said that "the decision to be a father or mother is part of the right to privacy and includes, in this case, the decision to be a mother or father in the genetic or biological sense."

The court ordered that assisted reproduction be reinstated, and the government promised it would fully comply.

Religious conservatives had called for banning the practice, saying it was a violation of privacy because it involved discarding embryo

### Drug found in British horsemeat sent to France

LONDON (AFP) - An equine drug that can harm humans has been found in horse carcasses exported from Britain to France and may have entered the human food chain, British agriculture minister David Heath said.

But the drug phenylbutazone was not found in tests on products made by Findus, the frozen food giant embroiled in a Europe-wide horsemeat scandal, Heath told parliament.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) tested the carcasses of 206 horses slaughtered in Britain for traces of the painkiller, also known as "bute", which in rare cases can cause a serious blood disorder in humans.

Phenylbutazone, (or bute) a painkiller for horses, can cause blood disorders in humans but at doses much higher than any one person is likely to ingest from eating horsemeat.

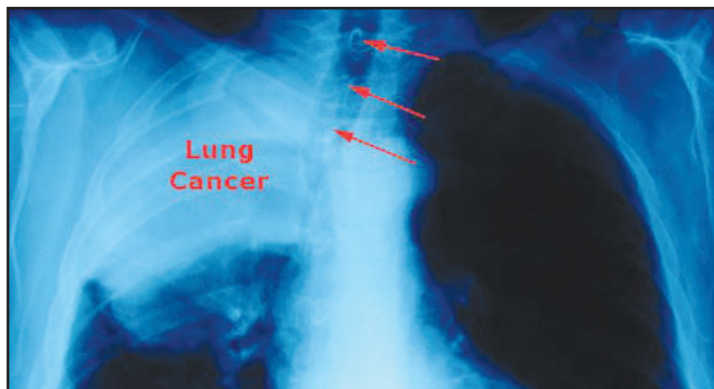
This drug was used in the 1950s to treat arthritis and gout in humans, but has since been withdrawn from pharmacy shelves.

The drug today is used as a painkiller and anti-inflammatory drug in dogs and horses that are not meant to be eaten.

About 8,000 to 10,000 horses are slaughtered for human consumption in the United Kingdom every year.

Horsemeat is widely eaten in parts of Asia and Europe, including in France, but is considered taboo in Britain.

### Lung cancer worsening threat for European women: study



PARIS (AFP) - Cancer rates in Europe are generally falling, but lung cancer is poised to overtake breast cancer as the disease's biggest killer of women, a study published said.

In 2013, about 1.31 million people -- some 737,000 men and 576,000 women -- will die of cancer in the 27-nation European Union (EU), researchers said.

In absolute terms, the toll will be higher than in 2009, a year that is the benchmark for measuring cancer mortality in the EU.

But accounting for the impact of Europe's greying population -- advancing age is a factor in cancer -- death rates in 2013 are likely to fall by six percent among men and by four percent among women compared with 2009.

But the study, which appears in the British journal *Annals of Oncology*, sounded a warning for women.

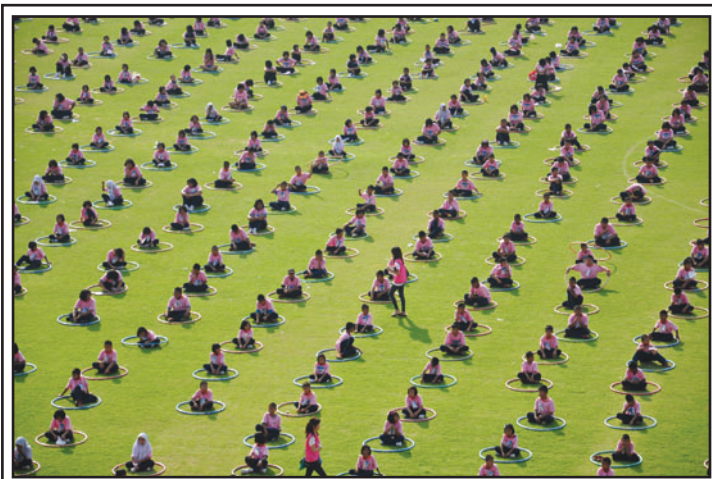
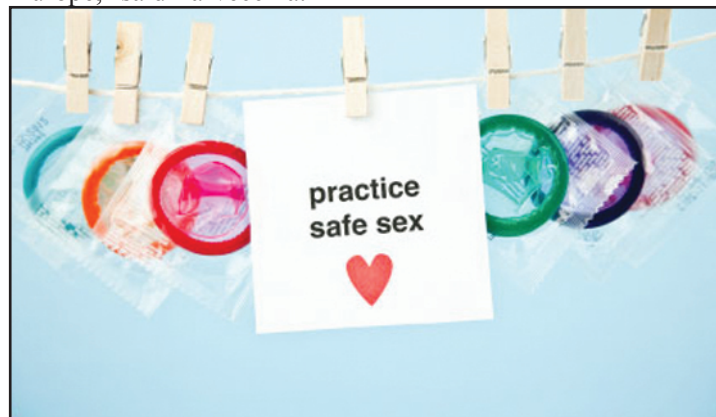
In 2013, the statistics point to a fall of seven percent in breast-cancer deaths since 2009, and a rise of seven percent for female deaths from lung cancer.

Co-author Carlo La Vecchia, a professor of epidemiology at Italy's University of Milan, attributed the rise to a surge in smoking among women in the late 1960s and 70s, which is fuelling a wave of early deaths decades later.

Fewer women today are smoking in Europe, which means mortality rates for lung cancer may fall after 2020.

Lung cancer is still the main cause of cancer deaths among men, but rates have fallen by six percent since 2009.

"If these opposite trends in breast and lung cancer rates continue, then in 2015 lung cancer is going to be the first cause of cancer mortality in Europe," said La Vecchia.



BANGKOK (AFP) - This handout photo taken on February 12, 2013 and received on February 14 by the Thai Public Health Ministry shows people taking part in a mass hula event in a stadium at Thammasat University Rangsit campus in Bangkok. Some 4,000 people spun the hoops at venues across Thailand to break the Guinness World Record, with 2 minutes of continuous hula. The event was organised by Thailand's Public Health Ministry to promote exercise.





# Dare to eat Dutch

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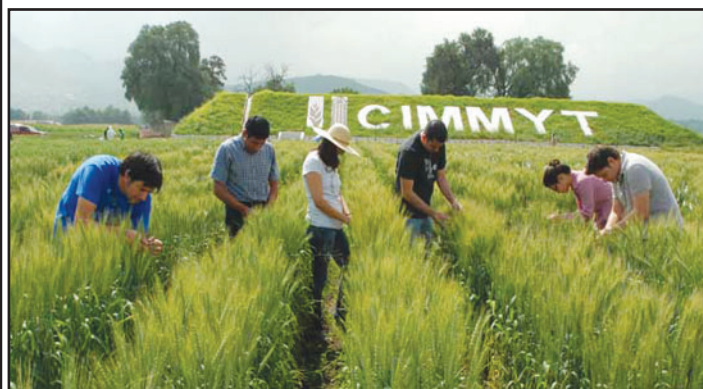
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### Sci-Tech

## World's richest man, donated for new facilities for grains research



TEXCOCO (AFP) - : Mexican tycoon Carlos Slim (R), US business magnate Bill Gates (L) and the Chairwoman of the Governing Board of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) Sara Boettiger walk during the inauguration of the center.



-- Carlos Slim, the world's richest man, donated \$25 million for new facilities at an international grains research center in Texcoco, east of Mexico City, already supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Messrs. Slim and Gates said Wednesday. The new facilities built with the Carlos Slim Foundation funds include new greenhouse and laboratory installations at the International Corn and Wheat Improvement Center, known as Cimmyt. The center breeds and studies new varieties of high-yielding corn and wheat resistant to drought, freezes and certain pests. Thomas Lumpkin, director of Cimmyt, said the world will need to double corn production and increase wheat production 60% by 2050 to feed the increased population.

## Google fires back at British Telecom in patent row



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Google fired back at British telecom titan BT Group in US and British courts Wednesday, escalating a year-old patent battle.

"We have always seen litigation as a last resort, and we work hard to avoid lawsuits," Google said in a statement.

"But, BT has brought several meritless patent claims against Google and our customers -- and they've also been arming patent trolls. When faced with these kinds of actions, we will defend ourselves."

Patent trolls are seen as those who get hold of legal rights to technology to profit from litigation, or the threat thereof, rather than apply innovations to products.

Google has accused BT of

"patent privateering," a practice where rights to technology are transferred for purposes of suing not building products.

Lawsuits filed by Google in US District Court in California and in Britain accuse BT of infringing on patents related to managing computer networks and Internet telephony, according to legal documents.

BT sued Google in December 2011, accusing the Internet giant of infringing on half a dozen US patents involving communication, maps and storing data such as music.

The British firm declined to comment on the pending litigation.

## BlackBerry co-founder Balsillie sells entire stake

OTTAWA (AFP) - Jim Balsillie, the former co-CEO and a driving force behind BlackBerry, no longer owns shares in the Canadian smartphone maker, according to a US securities filing Thursday.

Balsillie, who stepped down last year, said he had sold his entire stake in the company -- more than 26 million shares or roughly a five-percent stake -- as of December 31, 2012.

The news comes after BlackBerry last month launched two glitzy new devices, the Q10 and Z10, in a bid to revive its sagging fortunes and regain lost market share from Apple and other smartphone makers such as Samsung.

Balsillie joined the company in 1992 and helped its rise to prominence.

While BlackBerry helped create a culture of mobile users who were glued to the company's smartphones -- dubbed "crackberry addicts" -- many of those customers have since moved to Apple or Android-based phones.

BlackBerry shares rose 2.43 percent to Can\$14.29 in morning trading in Toronto.





## COMICS

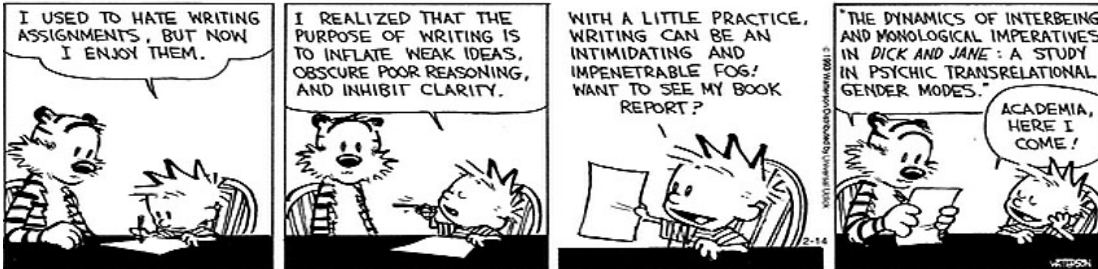
## PICKLES



## MOMMA



## CALVIN and HOBBS



## CROSSWORD



## CROSSWORD

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## GRAMMAR CLASS

## ACROSS

1. Intuitive letters
4. Domesticated
8. Converse casually
12. Speak indistinctly
13. Charles, Prince of —
14. Firefighter's need
15. Toast topping
16. Contraction marker
18. Philanthropist Andrew
20. Stranger in a strange land
21. Rare person
22. Overlay
24. Liquid
26. Bedspread
30. "— for Glory"
31. Definition preceder,

## often

32. Rwanda primate
33. Hugging equipment
34. Spice used in curry powder
35. Pinnacle
36. Open a keg
37. Iowa spreads
38. Valuable possession
39. Frenzy
41. Tiny arachnids
42. Rhine feeder
43. Lose zest
44. Takes to the seas
47. Diner's job
51. Placer of parentheses and periods
54. Fifi's brainstorm
55. "—, Brute!"
56. Increase the

## stakes

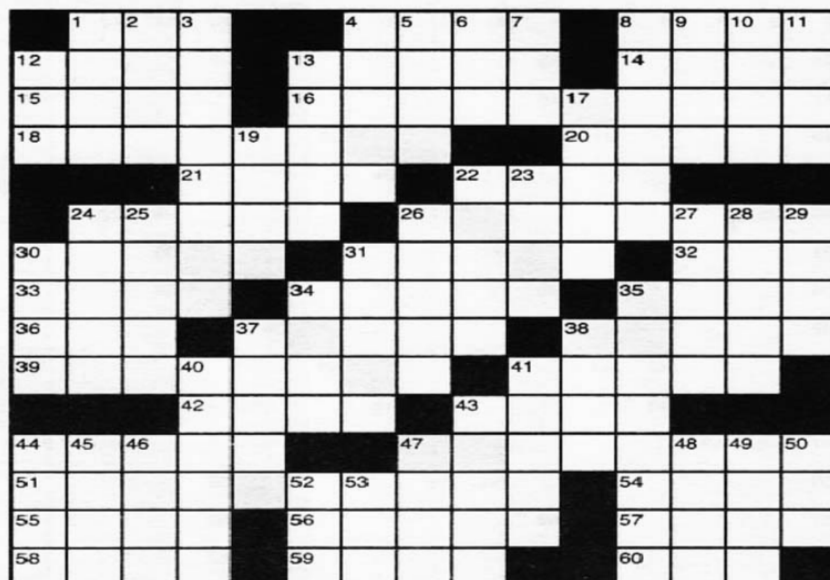
57. Reno opening
58. "For — the Bell Tolls"
59. "Bed Riddance" author
60. Mattel male

## DOWN

1. Cinder or salmon ending
2. Plaintiff
3. He and she, e.g.
4. Snouted animal
5. — vera
6. My: Fr.
7. Self-awareness program
8. Wrath
9. Southwest Indian
10. Arthur of

## tennis

11. High-schooler
12. Association: abbr.
13. Carried on
17. Sleek bird
19. "National Velvet" author
22. City: suffix
23. "Calling" cosmetician
24. Incursion
25. Gravy-maker's bane
26. It often follows "sincerely yours"
27. Mistake
28. Foils' kin
29. Hard copy
30. Tub event
31. Scientist Marie
34. Author John Dickson —
35. Footnote star
37. Sumptuous repast
38. Military assistant
40. Dusting powder
41. Niño's mother
43. First-year student
44. Eject
45. Writer: abbr.
46. Sondheim's "— the Woods"
47. "Toby Tyler" author
48. Stagnant
49. "The — Ceiling"
50. Understand
52. Coffee server
53. Highest minor-league level



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Tel.587-4300

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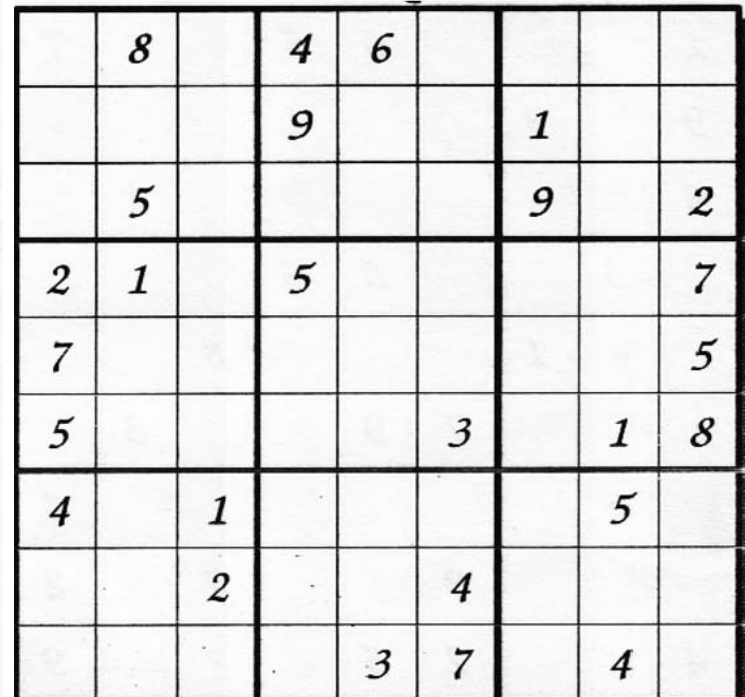
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## Sudoku



SOLUTION

6	9	2	1	5	9	8
1	5	8	7	5	9	2
9	5	1	8	6	2	1
8	1	7	5	2	1	9
5	2	9	6	1	8	5
1	6	5	9	7	5	1
2	8	6	1	1	5	9
7	9	1	5	8	6	2
5	1	5	2	9	7	6

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9  
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.  
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



## Finance

## Everything on the table in US-EU free trade deal: US



WASHINGTON (AFP) - Everything will be on the table when US and EU negotiators restart talks on ambitious transatlantic free-trade deal with a new wind in their sails, Washington's top trade negotiator said Wednesday.

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership would create the world's largest free trade area, liberalize investment and harmonize regulation, boosting economic growth and jobs, leaders from the two sides said.

US President Barack Obama made a renewed commitment to the talks one of the centerpieces of his annual State of the Union address on Tuesday, and diplomats said the first stage of a deal could be completed by late next year.

On Wednesday, Obama, European Council President Herman Van Rompuy and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso declared their commitment to make the project "as an even stronger driver of our prosperity."

"The transatlantic economic relationship is already the world's largest, accounting for half of global economic output and nearly one trillion dollars in goods and services trade," they said, in a joint statement.

Barroso said in Brussels that an accord between the world's two largest trading entities would add 0.5 percent to the EU economy every year.

The groundwork for a deal was done by a bilateral, high-level working group, which laid out the justification and

mapped out the framework for a deal in a report released Wednesday.

#### The proposed pact would:

- eliminate tariffs on goods trade.

- eliminate or reduce barriers to trade in goods, services and investment.

- harmonize regulations and standards which can hinder transatlantic trade and investment.

- remove or reduce things like a government's support for its state enterprises and preferences for locally produced goods and services.

- tie health issues linked to trade -- like biotechnology, sanitation, and genetically modified organisms -- to accepted, science-based standards.

The proposed pact would also adapt to address new challenges to trade and investment flows that arise as the global economy and technology ad-

vance, the working group said.

Such a deal would "further strengthen the extraordinarily close strategic partnership between the United States and Europe," it said.

US Trade Representative Ron Kirk told reporters in Washington that even politically sensitive issues like agricultural and food products or data flows, would be covered in the talks.

A broader, explicit aim of the pact is that the two sides hope to lay down an outline for fresh impetus to multilateral trade talks, which, like the Doha round of World Trade Organization negotiations, have stalled.

Kirk said there is an 18-month time frame for an initial deal, before a new European Commission is seated late in 2014.

He said the Trans-Pacific Partnership the US is negotiating with Pacific Rim countries and the separate US and EU trade pacts with South Korea, can serve as models that would help advance the negotiations quickly.

The biggest challenge would be finding the political will to surmount challenges like the European public's rejection of genetically-modified foods and seed that the United States wants to export, Schott said.

## Study says shale oil boom could boost world GDP by nearly 4%

PARIS (AFP) - A global boom in shale oil production similar to the one already underway in the United States could bring down the price of crude as much as 40 percent and add up to 3.7 percent to world economic output, a study released Thursday said.

A study by the PwC consultancy estimated that global production of shale, or tight oil, could gush up to 14 million barrels per day by 2035, or about 12 percent of the world's total oil supply.

It estimated this would cut 25 to 40 percent off the projected price of \$133 per barrel in 2035 by the US Energy Information Administration, which still assumes low levels of shale oil production.

PwC said "we estimate this could increase the level of global GDP in 2035 by around 2.3-3.7 percent," which is worth \$1.7-\$2.7 trillion (1.3-2.0 trillion euros) at today's global

gross domestic product levels.

The consultancy said the widespread tapping of shale oil "would revolutionise global energy markets, providing greater long term energy security at lower cost for many countries."

Technological breakthroughs in recent years have allowed the recovery of oil and natural gas from shale rock formations that previously could not be exploited.

Tapping such "unconventional" resources has led to a boom in US oil production, hitting 910,000 barrels per day in January according to estimates by the International Energy Agency, the highest level in over 30 years.

PwC noted this has led to US crude oil prices falling compared to global prices.

A boom in shale gas production has also led to far lower natural gas prices in the United States than in other countries.

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## American Airlines, US Air to form largest US carrier

NEW YORK (AFP) - American Airlines and US Airways announced a long-expected merger Thursday that would create the largest US airline, giving them more weight in an industry that has steadily consolidated in recent years.

The marriage would establish a huge carrier with more than 1,500 aircraft, able to compete head to head with powerful rivals United Airlines and Delta Air Lines.

It would also help lift American parent AMR Corp from bankruptcy reorganization, where it has been since November 2011.

Following American's emergence from bankruptcy and the execution of the deal, US Airways will hold approximately 28 percent of the company, with American interests holding the rest, and the fleet will fly under the name American Airlines.

In a statement the companies valued the deal at \$11 billion in "implied equity value" and predicted it would result in combined synergies of more than \$1 billion.

Company officials characterized the deal as a winner for consumers by establishing a third US airline giant to compete with Delta and United. They expect to complete the merger in the third quarter.

But Standard & Poor's raised doubts about how much greater competitiveness the combined company will have, and meanwhile a leading Washington think tank quickly condemned the merger as a bad deal for consumers.

The combined airline will offer more than 6,700 daily flights to 336 destinations in 56 countries, according to the companies.

It would assemble a powerful fleet of 1,511 mainline and regional aircraft. Combined revenues of \$38.7 billion in 2012 would put them slightly ahead of United and Delta.

Company executives told AFP that "they'll be some opportunities for rationalization" of management and headquarters staff.

But executives said the biggest savings came from combining routes and organizing planes efficiently so that the largest planes go to the busiest routes.

They also touted the combined company's capacity to win back valuable corporate riders who were lured away by other airlines.

The companies also said the deal would strengthen the combined company's competitive presence in the US Northeast, the western part of the US and Latin America.

Some observers have said the deal still leaves American with a relatively weak position in Europe and Asia compared with competitors.

The deal follows a spate of earlier US airline mergers that have reshaped the sector and improved profitability.

Also, S&P warned there will "be likely higher labor costs from signing new contracts with unions to facilitate merging the airlines."

The New American Foundation, a Washington think tank, said airline mergers frequently ill-serve medium-sized cities like St. Louis and Pittsburgh as airlines orient around major domestic and international routes.

Antitrust regulators and a US bankruptcy court must first give their approval before the merger can go forward, as American has been under bankruptcy protection since November 2011.

The idea of an American-US Airways tie-up has been floated since American's bankruptcy filing.

Under the transaction, US Airways chief executive Parker will become CEO of the newly formed company, while American chief executive Tom Horton will serve as chairman of the board through the middle of 2014 before stepping down, sources familiar with the matter said.

The two carriers said the merger enjoys the support of several leading unions from the two companies, including pilots associations and representatives of flight attendants.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer





## Brickell Bay Sand Beach lounge featuring live music this Sunday



--Aruba's newest lounge, Brickell Bay Sand Beach, in Palm Beach, created quite a stir with its recent opening, revealing a chic, unique environment that has strongly attracted island fashionistas as a relaxed, elegant place to



while away the evening hours.

The new eatery/nightclub has live music twice weekly, and this Sunday will feature one of the island's most popular and dynamic entertainers of the last decade, Marisela and the Aquarius Band. She is back on Aruba for a limited engagement and will be appearing every Sun-

day through January at Brickell Bay Sand Beach Lounge.

Marisela will be heating up Palm Beach for a very cool night each weekend beginning this Sunday, January 6, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. This is a performer known for "bringing down the house," so don't miss this rare opportunity to enjoy some great entertainment and discover Aruba's most stylish new nightspot.



Every Wednesday, The Ryders will be rockin' the house from 9:00 PM until midnight. Enjoy two for one drinks on all brands, even premium, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM every Monday through Thursday, and from 5:00 to 7:00 PM on Friday and Saturday, with an additional late night "Happy

Hour" on the weekends from 10:00 to 11:00 PM.

**Brickell Bay Sand Beach lounge is located directly across the street from the South Beach Center. If you are wondering what is new and hip on Aruba, this is it!**

## Bee Gees' Gibb says it could have been a life of crime

SYDNEY (AFP) - The sole surviving member of the Bee Gees on Thursday revealed he and his brothers could easily have turned to crime rather than music as he unveiled a statue in their honour in Australia.

Barry Gibb, with brothers Robin and Maurice, grew up in Redcliffe in Queensland state, where the band was formed and they performed as the Bee Gees for the first time.

Barry unveiled on Thursday a walkway -- Bee Gees Way -- and a statue depicting the brothers aged nine to 12, recalling the simple joys of his childhood.

"I think we were crazy, but it was okay to be crazy in those days," he told thousands of people who gathered for the unveiling.



Redcliffe's new Bee Gees Way statue. Source: Quest Newspapers

"I took Robin and Maurice down to the pier - we'd already been in Woolworths and we had pen knives in our pockets that we hadn't paid for," he added, according to Australian Associated Press.

"We made the decision to throw the pen knives off the jetty - they're out there some-

where - and to make the decision that it was either going to be a life of crime or a life of music."

They never looked back, with the trio helping turn disco into a global phenomenon in the 1970s with hits such as "How Deep Is Your Love", "Stayin' Alive" and "Night Fever".

Although originally from the Isle of Man in the Irish Sea, the brothers spent their childhood in Manchester and Australia.

Maurice died in 2003 after suffering a cardiac arrest while Robin died in May last year after a lengthy battle against cancer.

A fourth brother, Andy, died from cocaine addiction in 1988.



Barry Gibb in the walkway with pictures of the Bee Gees in the background. Quest Newspapers



GAZA CITY : A Palestinian shopkeeper prepares heart shaped cakes on Valentine's Day in Gaza City on February 14, 2013. Valentine's Day is increasingly popular in the region as people have taken up the custom of giving flowers, cards, chocolates and gifts to sweethearts to celebrate the occasion.



BAGHDAD : Iraqi women take part in Valentine's Day rally in Baghdad's Tahrir Square calling for better public services and for a corruption-free government on February 14, 2013. A organizer said they were calling on their leaders to love the war-battered country rather than rob its resources.



## 5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



--A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an inter-

nationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy,

made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$4.49, (\$5.48, with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda,



Farmer's or Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of

fries is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.

## Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

-- Management of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, reports that sales have been very good and encouraging as the global economy recovers and people looking to purchase vacation homes have found that Gold Coast is an outstanding investment value. Director of Sales, Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners in reality do not spend a great amount of time personally to use the villas or town homes they purchase, but are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community where the value of properties has only increased over time. It is only minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by



the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy operate Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project and the scope of actual and planned facilities and amenities. We have spoken to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who have dreamed of their own home in Aruba contributed to the realization of Gold Coast Aruba which when complete will be a community

of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional community pool areas. The Clubhouse is about to start construction and will offer to the community homeowners and visitors 2 tennis courts, full service spa and fitness center as well as a stunning pool area and is expected to be complete by early 2013. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the on site management's rental services program. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facili-

ties such as those at Gold Coast, make it easy for some owners to see a valuable return on their investment.

The design of the residences and public areas is open, airy and spacious, taking full advantage of the island environment, with quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options allowing buyers to individualize their homes. An elegant and chic furniture package is available or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the

least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast management have inaugurated a number of in-house services and have recently become affiliated Interval International, the world's largest network of vacation ownership properties which provides an unlimited international pool of investors to tap for ownership and rental prospects. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination is also available through the Interval International affiliation. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, child care, catering services, car rental through its partnership with AVIS car rental are also available as well as pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can also be arranged through their property management department. Personnel are also available to assist in arranging restaurant reservations and island activities.

Visit their website: [www.goldcoastaruba.com](http://www.goldcoastaruba.com) for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.



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## Sport

### Tennis: Azarenka serves up Doha double bagel

DOHA (AFP) - World number one Victoria Azarenka stormed into the Qatar Open quarter-finals on Thursday with a ruthless 6-0, 6-0 triumph over highly-regarded American Christina McHale.

Defending champion Azarenka, who is at risk of losing her top ranking to Serena Williams this week, produced a relentlessly forcing performance over McHale, a 20-year-old who has already posted seven victories over top 10 opponents.

The top-seeded Belarusian needed little more than an hour to remove the unfortunate American from her path into the last eight, a performance whose control, aggression, and

intensity was all the more stunning for happening amidst swirling conditions where consistency was difficult to achieve.

The way in which Azarenka completed the Valentine's Day rout also suggested that she may well be the genuine favourite to retain her Qatar Open title, as a sequel to her gutsy retention of the Australian Open title last month.

Remarkable though it may sound, McHale played by no means badly.

It was only in the last game, in which she committed three double faults, that she crumbled. But although she often hung in well in the rallies, she did not have the weapons to hurt the champion.

Azarenka next faces Sara Errani, the world number seven from Italy, in a half of the draw which also contains Agnieszka Radwanska, the fourth-seeded Pole who was her semi-final opponent last year, and Caroline Wozniacki, the former world number one from Denmark.

Radwanska advanced with a craftily constructed 6-1, 7-6 (8/6) win over Ana Ivanovic, the former French Open champion from Serbia.

Radwanska's reward is a quarter-final with Wozniacki, who survived a testing encounter by 7-6 (8/6), 6-3 against Mona Barthel on an even windier outside court. The German led 5-3 in the tie-break in conditions in which the ball sometimes threatened to bounce over the back stop, and where one or two line decisions had Wozniacki's father-coach Piotr screaming at the umpire.

She had a consolation though -- a Valentine's Day bouquet of roses from boyfriend Rory McIlroy, the world's number one golfer.

### Cycling: Froome seizes lead in Oman as Rodriguez wins stage



DJEBEL AKHDHAR (AFP) - Spain's Joaquim Rodriguez, of the Katusha team, won the fourth stage of the Tour of Oman on Thursday, as Britain's Chris Froome snatched the overall leader's red jersey.

Rodriguez was victorious on the mountaintop finish to the 143km stage, finishing four seconds ahead of Froome, of Sky, and 22 seconds in front of Australia's Cadel Evans of

the BMC team.

Rodriguez's compatriot Alberto Contador was fourth, 27 seconds back.

In the overall standings, Froome took the red jersey from Slovakia's Peter Sagan and now leads by a margin of 24 seconds from Evans and 25 seconds from Contador.

Sagan was some way off the pace on the day, as was Froome's compatriot, and Sky

team-mate, Bradley Wiggins.

"I owe the red jersey to the team today, they were fantastic," said Froome.

"With riders like Bradley Wiggins who helped position me into the climb, riders like Ritchie Porte who helped me on the slope, just to control the breakaway, it's a complete team effort today, it had to pay off."

"It was very tactical between Contador, (Vincenzo) Nibali and Rodriguez, with a few accelerations, each time leaving me behind a bit (...) I thought I'd better get moving, and I made a move and just tried to stay clear," Froome said of the gruelling climb to the finish.

Friday's fifth stage is a 144km ride from Al Alam Palace to the Ministry of Housing in Boshar.

The six-stage race concludes on Saturday.

### NBA: Lin settling in with Rockets

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A year after 'Linsanity' gripped New York Knicks fans and propelled NBA break-out star Jeremy Lin to global fame, the modest point guard is enjoying a more subdued yet substantial role with playoff contenders Houston.

As the NBA heads into its mid-season All-Star break this weekend, the Rockets occupy the eighth spot in the Western Conference, with such perennial contenders as the Los Angeles Lakers in their rearview mirror.

Their last game before the break was a 106-96 thumping by the Los Angeles Clippers, and Lin said the team will need to win more consistently in the second half of the campaign to maintain their playoff position.

The Rockets have had their share of adversity this season. They had to deal with the death

of head coach Kevin McHale's daughter Sasha, and first-round draft selection Royce White is being treated for anxiety disorder and is currently assigned to the developmental league.

Lin has come under heavy scrutiny, in the wake of his sensational exploits in New York and after inking a three-year, \$25 million contract with the Rockets after the Knicks declined to match that offer.

As the first Taiwanese-American to play in the NBA Lin, whose parents are from Taiwan and who has a grandmother from China, became a global sensation.

A documentary of his rise was unveiled at the Sundance Film Festival last month, with Lin managing to put in an appearance at one screening.

Under McHale's system, Lin's numbers are more modest. He's averaging 12.6 points,

six assists and 1.9 steals per game.

The Rockets' recently concluded West Coast road trip included a victory at the Golden State Warriors in Oakland, across San Francisco Bay from his home town of Palo Alto, California.

The Warriors -- the first NBA team to sign Lin -- timed their Asian Heritage Night festivities to coincide with the Rockets' visit, and Lin drew another big contingent of Asian fans in Los Angeles the following night.

"It's always a pleasure to be able to play in front of them and be able to hear their applause and cheers," Lin said.

But he says he thinks he's lucky to have ended up in Houston, rather than among home town fans at Golden State or in often frenetic New York.

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## NBA: Clippers catch fire early in win over Rockets, Celtics rally past Bulls in defensive struggle

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The Los Angeles Clippers set the tone with a 46-point first quarter and rolled to a 106-96 NBA victory over the Houston Rockets on Wednesday.

Caron Butler scored 17 of his 19 points in the first quarter, when the Clippers shot a blistering 77.3 percent from the field. They led 46-28 after one period and were up 69-49 at half-time.

The Rockets, playing without their injured leading scorer James Harden, could not dig themselves out of the hole.

Blake Griffin led Los Angeles with 20 points and 11 rebounds. Butler and Chauncey Billups added 19 apiece as the Clippers won their third straight game -- their first



Jeremy Lin (L) of the Houston Rockets is fouled by DeAndre Jordan (R) of the LA Clippers

home contest after an eight-game road trip.

Chris Paul added 10 points and 11 assists for the Clippers, who face their cross-town rival Los Angeles Lakers on Thursday before the All-Star break.

Chandler Parsons scored 17 points for the Rockets, who got 14 points each from Jeremy Lin and James Anderson.

Harden, who hurt his ankle on Tuesday in a 116-107 victory at Golden State, did not play after feeling soreness in the warm-up.

The Rockets held the Clippers to just 23 points in the second quarter, but could not get the deficit below double digits.

Houston outscored Los Angeles 23-19 in the third, but were unable to mount the sustained run that they needed.

The Rockets do not play again until after this weekend's All-Star break. The All-Star Game will be held at their arena in Houston on Sunday.

The Boston Celtics rallied in the fourth quarter to edge the Chicago Bulls 71-69 also Wednesday behind a strong defense and a 12-point performance from forward Kevin

Garnett.

Garnett scored eight of his points in the final quarter and grabbed a total of 11 rebounds for the Celtics, who outscored the Bulls 30-20 over the final 13 minutes in front of a crowd of 18,624 at the TD Garden arena.

Brandon Bass finished with a game-high 14 points for the Celtics, who improved to 8-1 since all-star guard Rajon Rondo was lost for the National Basketball Association season last month with a torn anterior cruciate ligament.

Marco Belinelli led Chicago with 12 points and Joakim Noah and Carlos Boozer each recorded double-doubles in the loss.

Noah finished with 10 points and 16 rebounds while Boozer had 11 points and 11 rebounds for the Bulls, who have now lost four of their last five contests.

Belinelli scored with 44 seconds left in the fourth to cut the Celtics' lead to 67-66, but Garnett responded at the other end.

Boozer's putback with 10 seconds on the clock cut the Celtics' lead to one, but Boston's Paul Pierce nailed two

tempts just before the final buzzer.

Chicago shot just 36.5 percent from the floor and went three-of-17 from three-point range, with Boston hitting on only 36.8 percent of its field goal attempts in the contest.

The Celtics, who are 20-9 at home and unbeaten in the last seven at TD Garden, lost another guard this week after Leandro Barbosa suffered a torn ACL.

Barbosa joins Rondo and rookie forward Jared Sullinger (back) on the sidelines for the rest of the season.

Like the Celtics, the Bulls are missing key players with injuries.

Bulls star Derrick Rose said he might have to miss the entire season while he recovers from surgery to fix a torn ACL.

free throws and the Bulls twice couldn't connect on potential game-winning three-point at-



TOKYO (AFP) - Japan's Koki Kameda will defend his World Boxing Association bantamweight title against Yonfrez Pareio of Venezuela in April, his gym announced on Thursday. The bout, to be fought on April 7 in Osaka, will be his sixth defence of the title since winning it when he beat Alexander Munoz of Venezuela in December 2010. "I'm going to prepare and try to win by a knockout in my favourite city of Osaka," said Kameda, 26. "I will become a father for the second time later this year. I'm going to fight for my children and wife." Kameda now has 29 wins, including 17 KOs, against one defeat after beating Hugo Ruiz of Mexico by a split decision in his previous defence in December last year. Pareio, 26 and ranked eighth in the WBA, has 12 wins, including four KOs, against one defeat and a draw.

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## Sports world shock and caution at Pistorius shooting



JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - The sports world reacted with a mix of shocked horror and caution Thursday to news that popular South African Oscar Pistorius had been charged with gunning down his model girlfriend.

Details of the killing were initially murky with Pistorius charged for murder after the death was first cast as accidental in media reports.

The tragedy exploded across social networking site Twitter and dominated headlines worldwide.

The South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee (SASCOC), the country's main sporting body,

also acknowledged the shooting but would not comment further.

"SASCOC, like the rest of the public, knows no more than what is in the public domain," it said in a statement, saying it had been inundated with enquiries.

"It would be irresponsible and inappropriate to comment on the alleged incident until the official investigative process has been completed."

Twenty-six-year-old Pistorius -- known globally as "Blade Runner" because of his carbon fibre prostheses -- will spend the night in jail before appearing in court early on Friday. He will appear at Pretoria Mag-

istrate's Court to answer charges of killing 30-year-old model Reeva Steenkamp at his upscale Pretoria home.

The blonde was shot four times in the early hours of Thursday morning and died on the scene. A nine-millimetre pistol was found at the scene.

Police have opposed bail for Pistorius, who is the only suspect in the case.

The sprinter became an international celebrity during last year's London Olympics, where he became the first double-amputee to compete in a Summer Games.

His arrest has rocked South Africa, where he had been considered a national hero.

His glamorous model girlfriend Steenkamp, once a FHM cover girl, was described as "the kindest, sweetest human being; an angel on earth." by Sarit Tomlins of her management agency.

Meanwhile police poured cold water on media reports that she had been mistaken as an intruder.

"We were surprised by allegations that the deceased had been perceived to be a burglar," said police spokeswoman Denise Beukes.



"There's previously been incidents of allegations of domestic disputes at the home of the accused."

Beukes said the police were talking to neighbours who heard disturbances earlier in the evening and around the time of the shooting.

Those revelations raised questions about a figure who was publicly adored, but led a colourful private life full of model girlfriends, guns and fast cars.

The Johannesburg-born athlete won gold in the 4x100m relay and the 400m individual at the Paralympic Games in London.

He was triple gold medallist in the Beijing games in 2008 in the 100m, 200m and 400m.

Pistorius was named by Time Magazine last year as one of the world's 100 most influ-

ential people.

"You're not disabled by your disabilities but abled by your abilities," he told Athlete magazine in a 2011 interview.

He had both legs amputated below the knee when he was 11 months old after being born without lower leg bones. But he played sports unhindered while growing up, switching to running after fracturing a knee playing rugby.

He was initially banned from competing in the Olympics in Beijing by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) on the grounds that his blades gave him an unfair advantage.

That decision was later overturned on appeal at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), although he ultimately failed to meet the Olympic qualifying standard time.



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